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Prototypes of attractors in four dimensions

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We study an extension of Duffing's equation to three variables with external forcing. Starting from a phase-space preserving chaos, three prototypes of chaotic attractors with a dimension larger than 3 can be derived. We provide examples of hyperchaos and a "bifractal" in a four-dimensional flow. The second-order Poincaré cross section of hyperchaotic flow is qualitatively equivalent to the first-order cross section of Ueda's attractor with the same forcing.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A four-dimensional flow can be realized either as a system of four autonomous ordinary differential equations or as a three-variable system with external forcing. The asymptotic dynamics of such systems can be described by the four Lyapunov characteristic exponents (LCE's). Leaving aside the zero exponent in the direction of the trajectory (or forcing, respectively), the three remaining LCE's can be used to classify the possible types of behavior. Two criteria have been introduced for the distinction of chaotic behavior. (i) Exponents can be either positive or nonpositive. Using the spectrum of ordered LCE's, $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \lambda_3$, $\sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i < 0$, there are thus two possibilities in the case of four-dimensional flows: $\lambda_1 > 0$, $\lambda_2 \leq 0$ (chaos), and $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 > 0$ (hyperchaos). Two examples of autonomous four-variable systems exhibiting hyperchaos have been described [1,2]. However, in these examples outside the range of parameter with hyperchaos the trajectory either escapes to a stable steady state or to infinity. There seem to be no detailed studies of prototypic four-dimensional flows which illuminate generic features; e.g., the bifurcation sequences to hyperchaos. Therefore findings of two positive LCE's in experimental time series have had no deeper explanation in terms of model equations so far [3-5]. (ii) Two exponents of opposite sign compete with each other. This allows for three cases of chaos with one positive Lyapunov exponent: (A) $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) < 0$, ordinary chaos with a Lyapunov dimension $2 < D_L < 3$; (B) $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) > 0$ and $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_3) < 0$, chaos with a Lyapunov dimension $3 < D_L < 4$ and a sheetlike cross section [6]; (C) $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) > 0$ and $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_3) > 0$, chaos with a Lyapunov dimension $3 < D_L < 4$ and a second direction of fractalization in the cross section (a "bifractal" [7]). These types have been characterized in a three-dimensional nonlinear map [8]. We are not aware of simple generic four-dimensional (4D) flows where all these types have been found.

II. RESULTS

We provide a prototypic ordinary differential equation where all four types of chaotic attractors including hy-

perchaos can be observed due to the systematic design of the system:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} &= y, \\ \dot{y} &= k_1 y - x^3 + B \cos(t) - C_1 z, \\ \dot{z} &= k_2 z - C_2 x,\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

with $x, y, z, k_1, k_2, B, C_1, C_2 \in \mathbb{R}$.

For $C_1 = 0$ the subsystem x, y is Duffing's equation as studied by Ueda [9]. Variable z possesses one term which contributes to the trace of the Jacobian governed by parameter k_2 , and C_1 and C_2 are used to linearly couple Duffing's oscillator to variable z . When $k_1 = k_2 = C_1 = 0$, variable z is coupled passively to the subsystem x, y and Duffing's oscillator is known to display volume-preserving chaotic orbits [10]. The spectrum of LCE's of this volume-preserving chaos is $(+, 0, -)$. Here, the zero exponent reflects the passively coupled third variable.

Parameters k_1 and k_2 (together with nonzero coupling C_1) can now be exploited to tune this spectrum in three different directions to yield attracting solutions. The trace of the Jacobian is globally constant and equals $k_1 + k_2$; therefore $k_1 + k_2 < 0$ is required for attractors.

A. $k_1 < 0$ and $k_2 > 0$

For numerically small values of k_1 and k_2 the LCE spectrum reflects the deviation from the conservative case. Negative k_1 (i.e., the negative contribution to the trace of the Jacobian) will increase the absolute value of λ_3 ; the negative exponent of the former conservative case moves farther from zero. Positive k_2 brings a positive contribution to the trace of the Jacobian. Due to this expansion in variable z (governed by parameter k_2) a second positive Lyapunov exponent can arise from the former zero exponent and therefore hyperchaos can be found. For $k_1 = -0.04$, $k_2 = 0.02$, $B = 34$, $C_1 = -0.11$, and $C_2 = 3.0$, we have found hyperchaos to exist. The LCE's are $(0.1634, 0.0237, -0.2180)$ yielding a Lyapunov dimension of 3.858. Figure 1 shows a second-order cross section of this hyperchaotic flow. The plot is qualitatively equivalent to the first-order cross section of Ueda's

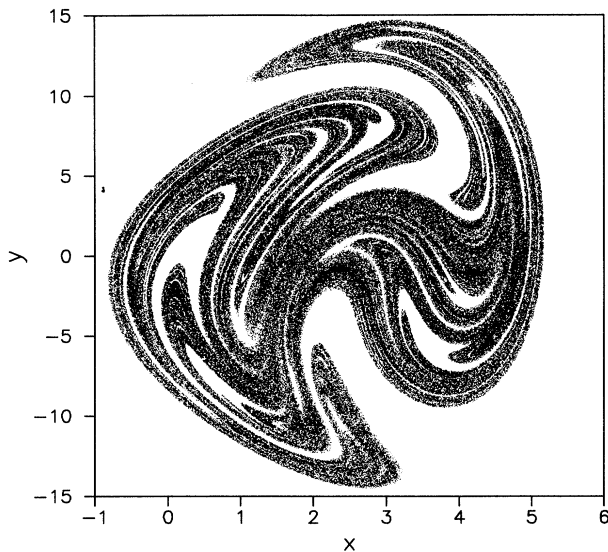


FIG. 1. Second-order cross section of hyperchaotic flow for parameters as given in the text. The first-order cross section was taken at intervals of 2π . For the second cut an ϵ band of ± 1 around $z = 0$ was applied. The z variable lies in the range $[-150; 150]$. 261 301 points are drawn.

attractor at the same forcing amplitude and frequency (see [10]). This confirms that the building-block principle for higher-dimensional flows [11] works. Hyperchaotic solutions are found in a finite parameter range.

We have performed a 1D continuation on Eq. (1) with different fixed values of k_1 and varying values of B (other parameters as given above for hyperchaos). In the (B, k_1) plane around the region with hyperchaos we found a “bump” of torus bifurcations similar to the pitchfork “bump” from Ueda’s system (denoted “IV” in [10]). Also there is evidence of a cusplike saddle-node bifurcation curve, but in our model this curve is interrupted by pitchfork bifurcations. The pitchfork bifurcations keep existing for quite high values of the damping k_1 . No evidence of period-doubling bifurcations was found.

B. $k_1 < 0$ and $k_2 < 0$

With both k_1 and k_2 negative both λ_2 and λ_3 become more negative compared to the conservative case. For numerically small values of k_1 and k_2 the chaotic solutions can be characterized by $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) > 0$ and $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_3) < 0$, and the resulting attractors thus have a Lyapunov dimension $3 < D_L < 4$ and a smooth sheetlike cross section. This type of chaotic behavior is described in [6].

Increasing dissipation, e.g., by decreasing parameter k_2 , simple chaos with $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) < 0$ and with a Lyapunov dimension $2 < D_L < 3$ can be found. Here the cross section is a Cantor set of folded lines.

C. $k_1 > 0$ and $k_2 < 0$

For small values of both parameters the negative Lyapunov exponent of the conservative case will decrease

in absolute value (move closer to zero) due to positive k_1 , but the zero exponent of the conservative case gets negative due to negative k_2 . With $k_1 + k_2 < 0$ an attractor will result which fulfills both $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) > 0$ and $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_3) > 0$. The stroboscopic plot of this attractor resembles the hyperchaotic case, but the different spectral composition leads to a new type of fractal structure. Exemplary parameter values are $k_1 = 0.02$, $k_2 = -0.04$, $B = 34$, $C_1 = 5.9$, and $C_2 = 0.1$. This attractor has a Lyapunov spectrum of $(0.1940, -0.0479, -0.1752)$, and thus a dimension of $D_L = 3.834$.

III. DISCUSSION

The dynamic behavior of Duffing’s oscillator was known as a function of the dissipation parameter from the study in [10]. The key to the results presented above was the set of parameters that gives rise to a positive LCE in Duffing’s equations. A linearly coupled third variable creates a new direction with zero divergence in the phase-space preserving case ($k_1 + k_2 = 0$). Then the introduction of nonzero k_1 and k_2 with $k_1 + k_2 < 0$ allows the manipulation of the two nonpositive exponents. In particular, $k_2 > 0$ creates a new direction of expansion orthogonal to the chaotic divergence of the conservative system. The single nonlinearity with the correct symmetry (third order) is capable of keeping this (second) expansion bounded, and stable hyperchaotic solutions are obtained for small positive values of k_2 . Note that Duffing’s equation is a physical model and was not tailored to create hyperchaos as the Rössler system. Hyperchaos in the context of Duffing’s oscillator was also observed by Kapitaniak [12], but periodic forcing of four coupled nonlinear oscillators was required to achieve this result.

If $k_2 < 0$, a new direction of convergent behavior is created (compared to the volume-preserving case) and a stable attractor results immediately. For small negative values of k_2 , the exponent resulting from this convergent behavior is (in absolute value) smaller than the positive exponent from the mean divergence. This leads to the familiar situation where on the average one *local* rate of convergence to the attractor is weaker (in absolute value) than the *local* rate of divergence [8]. The result is an attractor of Lyapunov dimension larger than 3.

Parameter k_1 can be used to adjust the value of the more negative Lyapunov exponent. If $k_1 > 0$, then the third Lyapunov exponent λ_3 can be managed to move closer to zero and for small positive values of k_1 condition $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_3) > 0$ is satisfied for a finite range of parameter. This means there is a second mean value of convergence in the system which is smaller (in absolute value) than the mean divergence of the chaos. Thus there is a second situation where the local rate of convergence is on the average smaller (in absolute value) than the local rate of divergence at that point. In contrast to the first case there can be no second increase of the attractor dimension over the next integer because phase space is only four dimensional. Now the competition of rate of convergence with the rate of divergence leads to a second direc-

tion of fractalization orthogonal to the first fractalization caused by the stretching-and-folding operation in phase space. This feature has been observed only numerically so far and an analytic proof seems out of reach. However, the same transition has been shown for a nonlinear three-dimensional map in a situation close to invertibility [8] and the transition criteria from smooth to bifractal attractors could be given analytically in a piecewise linear map with explicitly controllable rates of convergence and divergence [13].

To summarize we conjecture that, according to our classification, there are three types of attractors with

Lyapunov dimension $3 < D_L < 4$, which are prototypic for four-variable flows.

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